

MARCH 28, 2025

NEWSLETTER

DIXONS CROXTETH ACADEMY



The Dixons Croxteth newsletter keeps our community, including parents, students, staff, and the public, informed with updates on school events, policies, student achievements, opportunities for community involvement, and available educational resources.



Academy's values:

Hard Work: we never give up. We remain positive so that we have the strength to persevere with even the hardest work. We do what it takes for as long as it takes.

Integrity: we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. We do this even when people are not watching.

Fairness: we play by the rules. We are respectful, polite, and courteous at all times. We treat others in our diverse community as we wish to be treated. When we help others, we help ourselves.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families

As we come to the end of another fantastic week at Dixons Croxteth, we want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support. Your engagement with our school community plays a huge role in the success of our students, and we are grateful for it.

This week, we had the pleasure of celebrating World Book Day, with a special focus on journeys, both literal and personal. Our students explored stories that take characters on incredible adventures, teaching them about resilience, growth, and discovery. It was wonderful to see so many students engaging in discussions about their favourite books and sharing their love of reading.

With literacy at the heart of our curriculum, we are excited to announce that we will be relaunching a dedicated reading time next year within the school day. Reading is fundamental to success, and we are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to develop a lifelong love for books. More details will follow soon!

In addition to our literary celebrations, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit Liverpool Hope University for an insightful careers event. This visit allowed them to explore different pathways and envision their future aspirations. It was inspiring to hear about their enthusiasm and engagement with the sessions. KS4 also students had a visit from St John Bosco Sixth Form, who provided valuable information about post-16 options. Making informed decisions about the next stage of education is crucial, and we are pleased to offer students opportunities to explore the best options available to them.

Mr Makin met with the Student Council this week. Thanks to their valuable feedback, we will be looking at ways to enhance how we celebrate success within our school. After the Easter break, we will be launching a new appreciations initiative to recognise the hard work and achievements of our students in new and meaningful ways. We are excited to implement these changes and will share successes with families.

I had the privilege of leading a Morning Meeting for Year 7-10 this week and I have informed students that if they have 100% attendance this week and next week and have demonstrated our values, we will have a recognition event on the final day of term.

We have included in this newsletter some excellent opportunities for families over the Easter break provided by Liverpool City Council and some important safeguarding information related to the Netflix drama Adolescence. We always ensure the safety and well-being of our students is a top priority, and we encourage all parents to review this information carefully.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting week ahead.



Mr Duggan
Principal

Mr Duggan
Principal

EXPERIENCE THE WORKPLACE AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

A group of Year 10 learners were very lucky to attend the Experience the Workplace event organised by All About Futures in partnership with the LCR Careers Hub, LCR BeMore and funded by UK Government.

These involved businesses representing three exciting sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Freeport, and the boys explored innovation in the Liverpool City Region through a series of engaging workshops. They also had the opportunity to enhance their employability skills and knowledge, preparing them for the world of work.

Mr Owens (Head of Year 10)



DEBATE MATE

The year 10 debate team are currently preparing for the Debate Mate cup on Wednesday 2nd April.

The boys are working extremely hard and have developed the skills needed for structured, public debate.

We wish the boys luck for their debates at Liverpool John Moores University on April 2nd.



READING DAY 2025

On Thursday 27th March we celebrated reading in the academy. The day was centred around the theme of "Journeys" and we encouraged staff and students to consider their own journey. Morning meeting looked in detail at "Watership Down" and how we can learn from the struggle of the rabbits. Heads of Year discussed their own journey and students completed footprints to add to the road of success in the heart space.

Students enjoyed themed lessons in English, Geography, Maths and Art. Staff enjoyed tea and coffee whilst completing a staff reading journal in the library. Miss Gregson said: "Reading is a gateway to reflect on our own journeys whilst also becoming empathetic to the journeys of others. Reading opens doors to the world and that's why every journey to success begins with reading."



SAFEGUARDING: REFLECTIONS ON NETFLIX'S ADOLESCENCE – MISOGYNY AND KNIFE CRIME



You may have watched, heard or read about *Adolescence*, the new Netflix drama that's sparked a lot of interest. It's not an easy watch, but it highlights issues that are increasingly relevant to young people, particularly issues such as misogyny, peer pressure, and knife crime. It's the kind of show that makes you stop and think about what young people might be facing, especially when those issues aren't necessarily visible.

The programme shows how quickly situations can spiral for teenagers who are searching for belonging or identity often in places or people that are unsafe. It's a reminder for us to keep an eye on early signs that something's not quite right such as changes in mood, withdrawing from peers, new friendships, or a growing interest in control, status or violence.

Adolescence brings to light the hidden risks that some students are facing, and while it was very hard to watch at times, it's also a strong reminder of how important our role is as teacher or parents. We are all responsible for safeguarding. Supporting young people through these challenges isn't always easy but the work we do every day makes a big, big difference.

If anything in the programme resonates with you or raises concerns about your child, please do reach out. Let's continue to support each other and keep doing everything we can to help our children feel safe, seen, and supported both in and out of school.

Going forward we will be creating more resources to support students and working with our partners who are experts in these key areas bringing people into our schools with lived experiences to work with our students. At Dixons Croydon we will do everything we can to keep our young people safe!

Mark Little – Designated Safeguarding Lead

SAFEGUARDING: REFLECTIONS ON NETFLIX'S ADOLESCENCE – MISOGYNY AND KNIFE CRIME

PERIODIC TABLE OF SINISTER EMOJIS BY AMIT KALLEY															
DRUGS				For Working Parents WWW.FORWORKINGPARENTS.COM								INCEL			
Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine									Far Right	Incel	Incel	Incel
Marijuana	Marijuana	Weapon	Weapon									Neo-Nazi	Incel	Incel	Incel
Marijuana	MDMA	Crime	Crime	Penis	Penis	Bum	Swinging	Nudes	Cutting	Neo-Nazi	Incel	100	Incel	Incel	Incel
MDMA	Ketamine	Murder	Murder	Genitalia	Vagina	Vagina	Oral Sex	Porn	Burning	Neo-Nazi	Anti-Woman	1488	Neo-Nazi	Anti-Woman	Anti-Woman
Mushrooms	Heroin	Threat	Locked Up	Lust	Lust	Lust	Oral Sex	Orgasm	Feeling Low	IS Extremism	Anti-Woman	IS Extremism	Anti-Woman	Anti-Woman	Anti-Woman
NO2	Dealer	Trap Music	Snitch	Intercourse	Intercourse	Fingering	Anal Sex	Orgasm	Not Eating	IS Extremism	Anti-Woman	IS Extremism	Anti-Woman	Anti-Woman	Anti-Woman

A Former deputy head teacher, Amit Kalley has created a Periodic Table of Sinister Emojis. Amit is the founder of For Working Parents, which helps parents and carers navigate the ups and downs of parenthood. Amit created the table because many parents feel out of their depth when it comes to understanding the alternative meanings behind the secret emojis our children are using on a daily basis.

Many parents may dismiss the use of the emojis as harmless fun. Adolescence has highlighted the importance of the meanings of the emojis and how we should be monitoring our children's use of social media to keep them safe.

If you have any concerns about your child's use of emojis/social media please don't hesitate to get in touch with our safeguarding team.

SAFEGUARDING: REFLECTIONS ON NETFLIX'S ADOLESCENCE – MISOGYNY AND KNIFE CRIME

Practical tips to help minimise the risks your child might face.

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them. Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- **Explain** how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images.
- **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location'** enabled, sharing their location unintentionally.
- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.

For more information You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at:

- www.childnet.com/sns
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- www.parentzone.org.uk
- www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents
- www.askaboutgames.com

To make a report

Concerned about online grooming or sexual behaviour online? Contact CEOP:
www.ceop.police.uk

If you stumble across criminal sexual or obscene content on the internet you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING

MONDAY 31ST MARCH 2025

Join us for a Coffee Morning at Dixons Croxteth Academy!

Date: Monday 31st March 2025

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for a Coffee Morning with the opportunity to:

- **Speak with Teachers** about any concerns or questions you may have.
- **Raise Issues or Suggestions** to help improve our school community.
- **Connect with Other Parents** and share experiences.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our school community, share your thoughts, and enjoy a coffee with us.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your feedback!



EASTER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

The Easter HAF programme starts on the 7th April and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the Easter holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including Easter Egg Hunts, decorating Easter eggs, an Easter themed obstacle course, trips out, dance, mindfulness, yoga, football, acting and shooting film, studio engineering, bass and drum classes, cycling, gymnastics, nature walks and basketball to name but a few! A meal is included for every child attending.

There is a central booking system to make it easier for you to find and book the activities. You can find out where your nearest scheme is by clicking on this link <https://eequ.org/liverpoolhaf> or using the QR code which will take you to the Liverpool HAF page and the easy to fill in booking system. You can search by age, provider or date. There is a handy booking help video here - How to make a booking



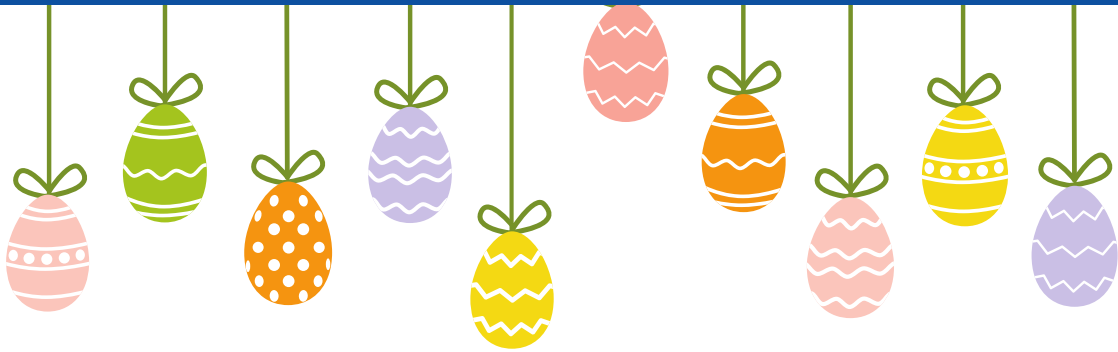
If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click:
<https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register
<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

























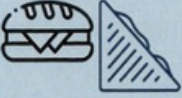







Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Winter HAF programme. This programme is funded by the Department for Education.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - FISD.

EASTER LUNCH MENU



Below is the Easter celebration menu for the week commencing 31st March 2025.

   					
Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU			 		
	Italian Meatballs Pasta Garlic Bread 	Beef Chilli con Carne Rice-Nachos Chips 	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Fish / Chicken Goujons & Chips Bake Beans / Peas 
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread 	Beans Chilli Rice-Nachos Chips 	Snish Kebab Naan Bread Basmati Rice/Salad 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Lamb Kofta Salad Kebab Chips 
	Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA 				
	Ice-cream 	School Cake 	Brownies Rice Pudding 	Yogurt 	Chocolate/Vanilla Muffins 
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am					



HOME LEARNING AT DIXONS CROXTETH

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we build a partnership between carers, students, and teachers that puts learning first. We help our students value learning by teaching them to take ownership of their own success. Home learning activities play a significant role in a pupil's educational journey and wider development.

Why is Home Learning so Important?

When our long-term memory is altered, we have learnt something. However, when we are exposed to new information, we instantly begin to forget it. Over time, the amount of original information retained significantly reduces unless it is revisited often.

Our home learning strategy is designed to allow students to frequently revisit powerful knowledge, interrupting the forgetting process.

There are three strands to our Home Learning Strategy:

Read. Cover. Write. Check. (RCWC): This is a paper-based task.

Sparx Maths: Online.

Seneca Learning: Online.

Expectations – Y7 and Y8

Up to 60 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Expectations – Y9 and Y10

Up to 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Expectations – Y11

A minimum of 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Accessing revision sites

Excellent additional resources can be found at:

Learn Dojo

BBC Bitesize

Save My Exams

Oak National Academy

Free Science Lessons

ACADEMY LEADERS

Senior Leadership roles at Dixons Croxteth



Mr Duggan
Principal



Jacqui Varkulis
Vice Principal
Behaviour and Culture



Anish Morgan
Vice Principal
Teaching and Learning



Ian Makin
Vice Principal
Student Experience



Mark Little
Assistant Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you are worried or have a concern please speak to one of the members of staff below or email: dcr_safeguarding@dixonscr.com



Mr I Duggan
Principal



Mr M Little
Assistant Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr I Makin
Vice Principal
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Ms J Varkulis
Vice Principal
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss R Bowers
Safeguarding officer



Miss L Cox
Safeguarding officer



Ms T Redmond
Safeguarding officer



Mr R Owens
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs C Watson
Safeguarding Officer